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Congratulations on the birth of your new baby! Thank you for entrusting the care of your child to us.

Having a child born with a cleft lip and/or palate can seem overwhelming. You may be struck by many emotions: fear, joy, sadness, anxiety, guilt, uncertainty and hope. These feelings are normal. You share the feelings of many new parents. You might be afraid of not knowing what to do or of making mistakes. We are here to help and support you and your family throughout the journey. You are not alone!

Having a child, cleft or no cleft, is a wonderful and special experience. At the same time, it can be challenging, with sleepless nights, continual diaper changing, and crying spells in addition to the unique challenges of caring for a child with a cleft. Remember to look beyond the cleft and enjoy your new baby—his or her new baby scent, soft skin, big shining eyes, innocent look and developing personality.

This Keepsake Journal will provide your family with a special memoir—a way to keep track of your child's experiences each step of the way. Inside you will find information specific to your child's diagnosis, tips for feeding, information on treatment, suggestions for seeking support, a place to track progress and a section for making notes of special thoughts and feelings.

Our mission is to provide you and your child with the highest quality of care. We strive to do so in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. We are committed to support you and your child throughout the journey.

I welcome your questions and encourage you to share your concerns and fears. Our team looks forward to the opportunity to serve your child's needs while building a connection with your family.

Sincerely,

Samuel M. Maurice, M.D.
Medical Director,
Mercy Center for Craniofacial and Children's Reconstructive Surgery